THE LIFE OF SAINT PATRICK

HIS SHEPHERD OF THE IRISH

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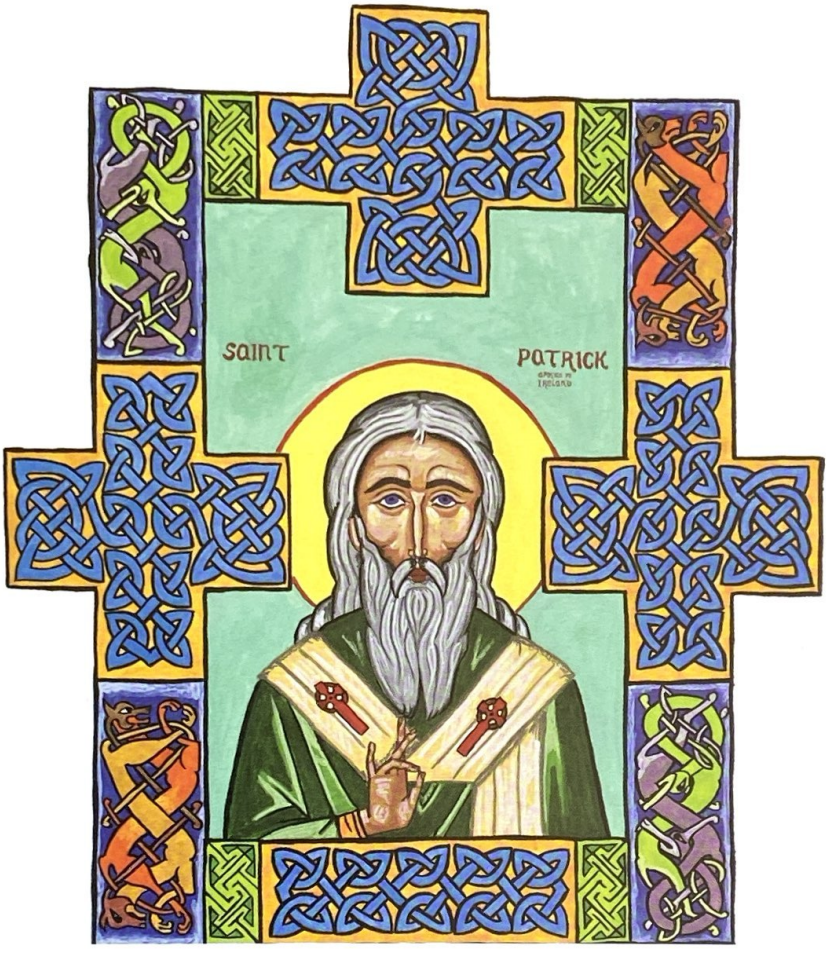
Written and Illustrated by Zachary Lynch

THE LIFE OF SAINT PATRICK



ENLIGHTENER OF THE IRISH

Written and Illustrated by Zachary Lynch

Conciliar Press

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THE LIFE OF ST. PATRICK:
ENLIGHTENER OF THE IRISH

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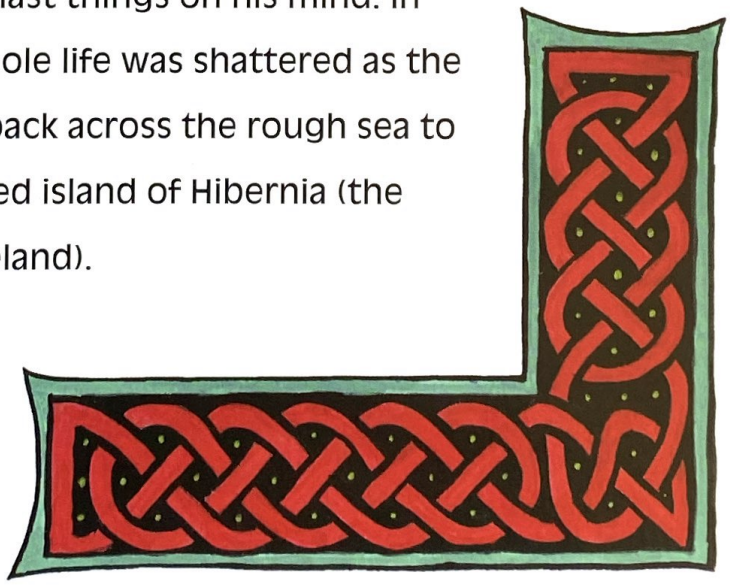
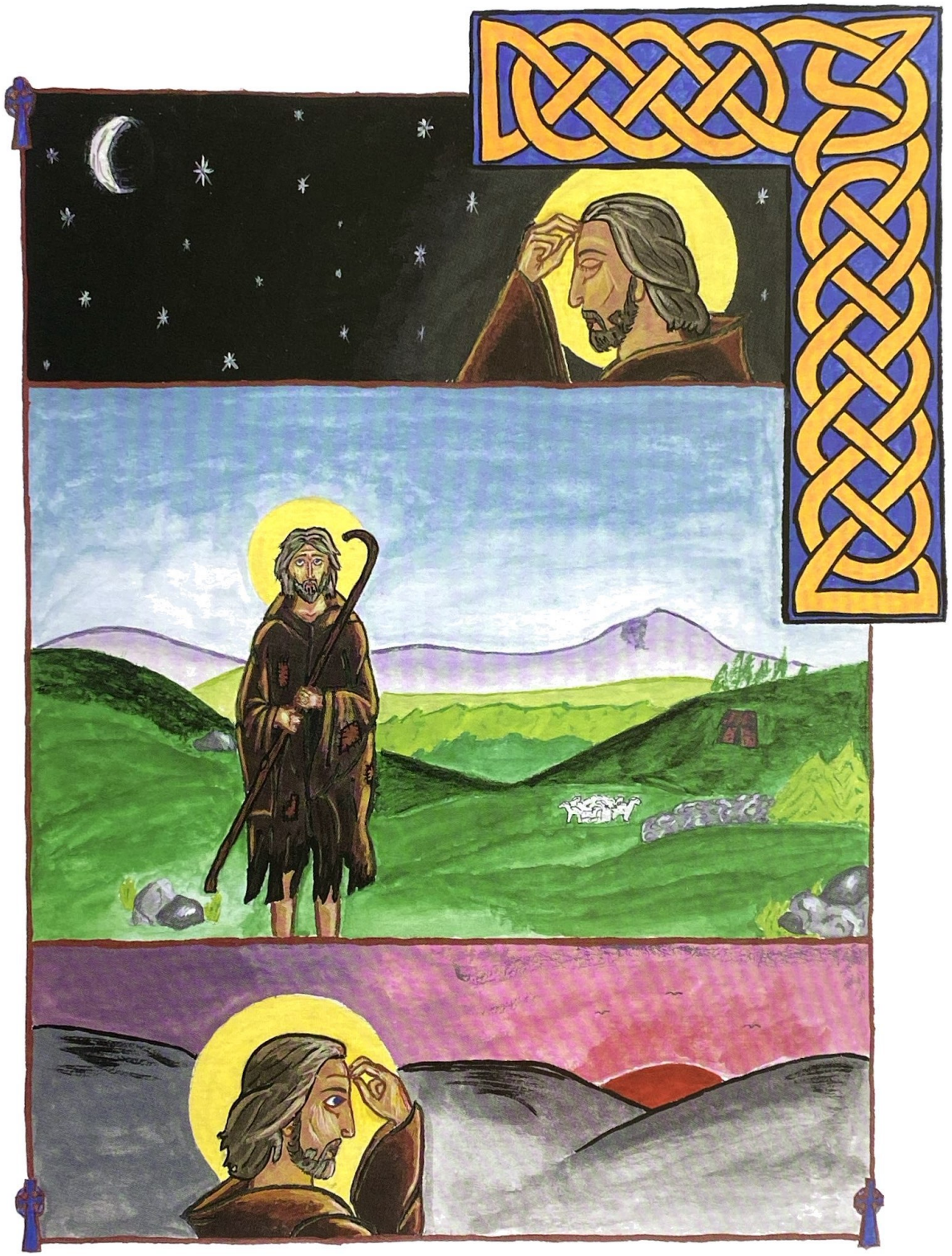
To my wife Natalia,
who was a constant source of encouragement
as I worked on this book

cross the wild Irish sea came raiders in the night. Savage men from Ireland, plundering the British coast. They stole, robbed, and took prisoners wherever they went. One of their captives was Patrick, a beardless boy of just sixteen. Though he was a deacon's son, God was one of the last things on his mind. In one moment his whole life was shattered as the pirates forced him back across the rough sea to the untamed, isolated island of Hibernia (the ancient name for Ireland).



atrick was afraid, hungry, and naked. He was sold as a slave to a sheep farmer and sent deep into the mountains to tend the flocks. There, alone in the wild, Patrick turned to God. Just as a seed begins to grow, so did the love and fear of God swell within his young heart. He began to pray and fast all the time, saying a hundred prayers in a single day, and at night only a little less. God's divine energy filled him, and for six years, through seasons of sun, rain, snow and frost, he lived with the fire of God ever growing in his heart. God became his warmth and his life.

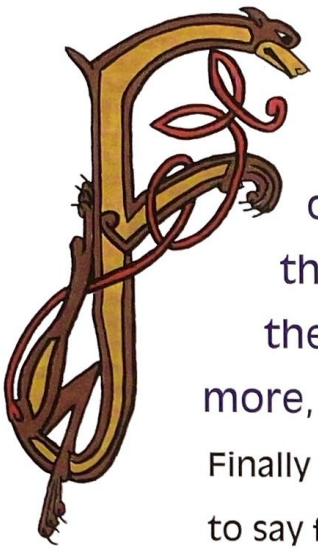


Ireland
Gaul

ne certain night a voice came to him in a dream and said, "You are right to fast; soon you will return to your country." And after a short while, the voice came again: "Come and see. Your ship is waiting."

At the Holy Spirit's command, Patrick rose and fled, walking over two hundred miles, with God's power guiding his every step. At last, he came to a harbor and saw a ship about to put to sea. But the captain refused him passage. "Don't get ideas into your head!" screamed the captain. Patrick turned to leave, praying all the while, and suddenly the sailors changed their minds, shouting, "Come aboard, we will take you as you are!"

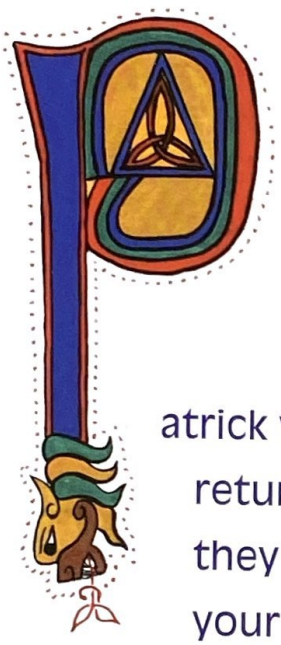
Holy
Prophet
Elijah



or three days they sailed until they reached the land of Gaul. There they wandered for twenty-eight days more, and soon their food ran out.

Finally the captain said to Patrick, "What have you to say for yourself, Christian? You say that your God is all-powerful. Pray for us! See how hungry we are!" Full of faith, Patrick answered, "Turn with trust to the Lord who is my God and have faith in Him with all your heart. . . . He will send us food, for with Him there is abundance everywhere." That very moment, a herd of wild pigs rushed in front of them! From then on they had food every day, and they all gave thanks to God.

One night as Patrick slept, Satan attacked him bitterly, so that he had no bodily strength. Patrick cried out with all his spiritual might, "Elijah, Elijah!" Then he saw the sun begin to rise in the sky. As the sun rose, God's power flooded Patrick and delivered him.



atrick wandered for three years before returning to his family. With the greatest joy, they welcomed him back, begging him, "Give us your word that you will never leave again!"

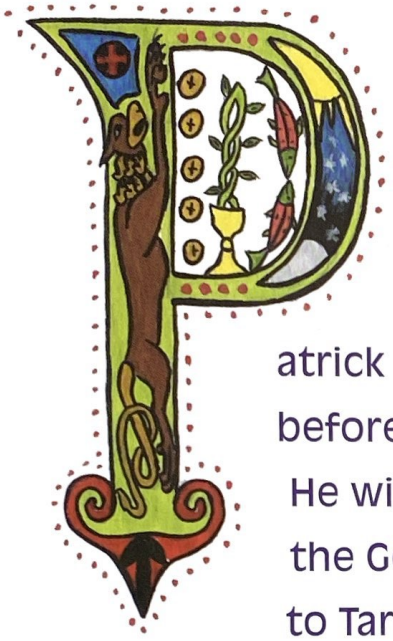
However, one night Patrick had a vision, as large as life, of a messenger named Victoricus who visited him from Ireland. In his hand he bore countless letters, one of which he handed to Patrick. It was titled, "The voice of the Irish." Patrick heard the voices of those who lived beside the forest of Focult, near the western sea, shouting together: "Holy boy, we beg you to come back and walk among us once more." Like a spear, their words pierced his heart.

The Voice of the Irish

atrick set off to study and do all that was needed for him to return as a missionary to Ireland. His family was sad and tried to persuade him to stay, but Patrick loved God more than anything and knew that he must obey Him. Several years later, Patrick was ordained a bishop and was ready to return to Ireland to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

SAINT MAXIM OF TURIN
SAINT GERMANUS OF AUXERRE

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

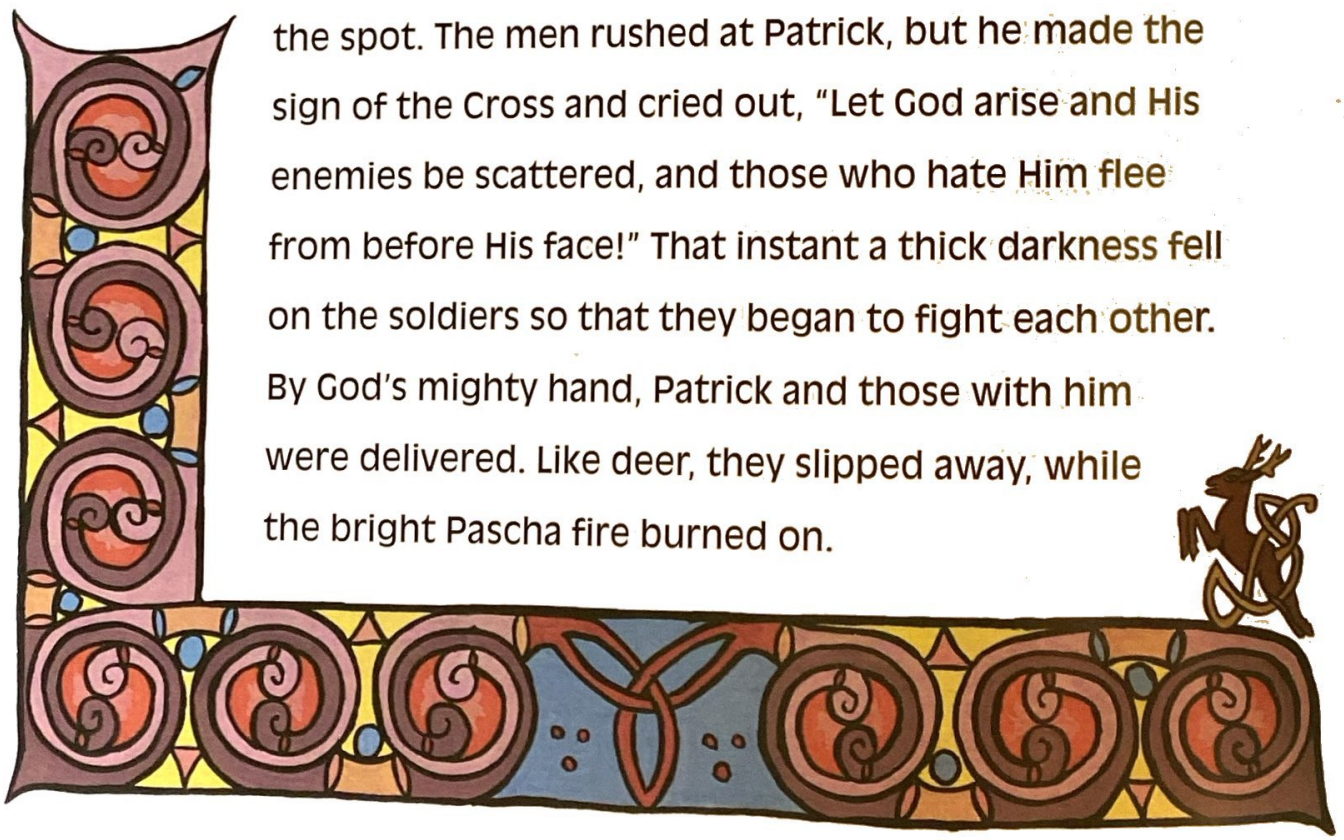


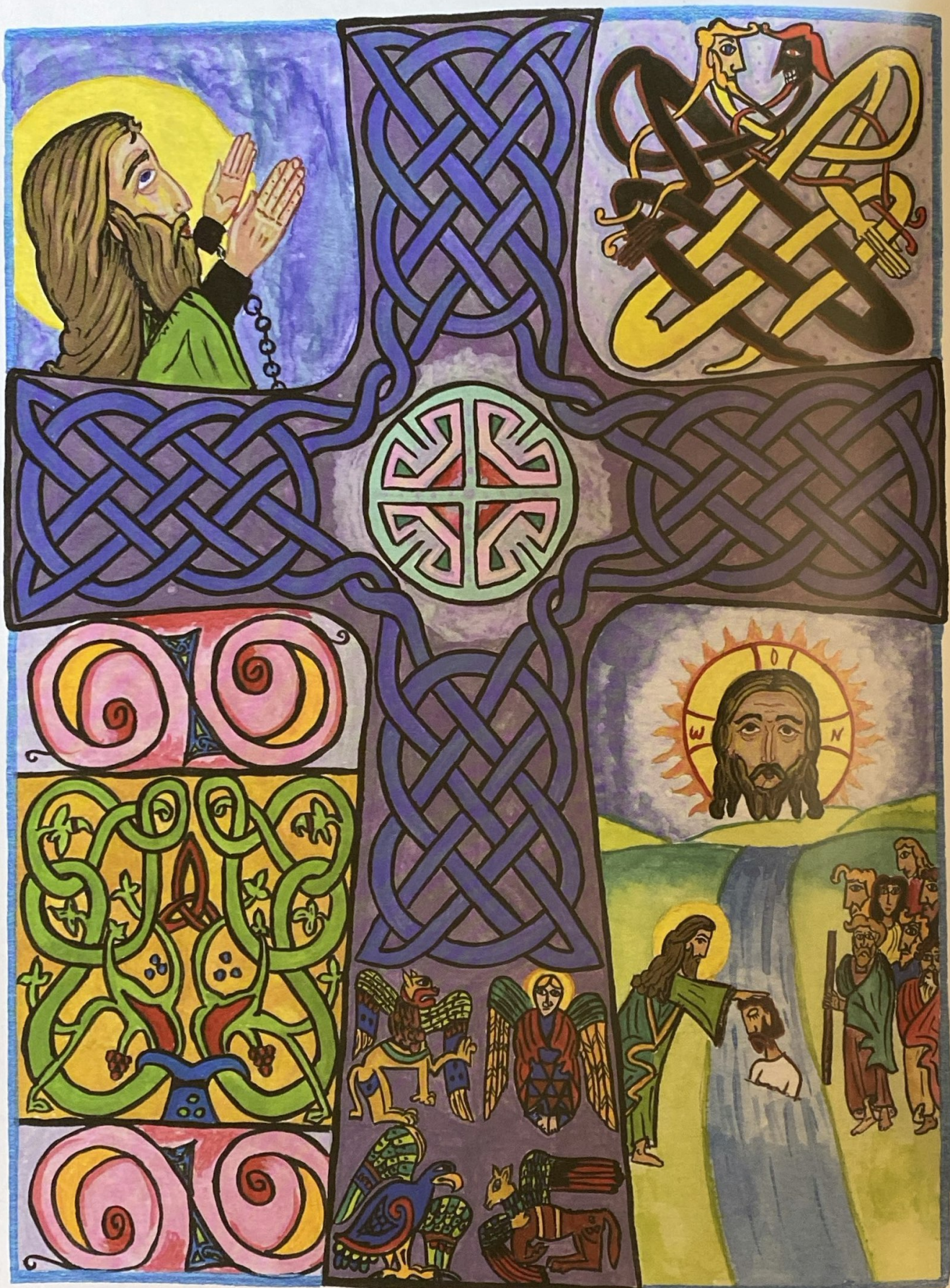
atrick returned to Ireland not long before the glorious feast of Pascha (Easter). He wished to shine the good news of the Gospel to all of Ireland so he traveled to Tara, the home of the Irish kings.

Patrick found a hill near the palace and there he kindled the blessed Pascha fire, which could be seen for miles around. At the same time as Pascha, there was an annual pagan festival at which King Loiguire, the high king of Ireland, had to be the first to light a fire in celebration. There was a law that if any person lit a fire before he did, that person must be put to death. Patrick had lit his Pascha fire first!

eeing the flames in the distance, the king called his elders, advisers, and druids, demanding, "Who dares commit this crime in my kingdom? Let him be put to death!" They all shook their heads in astonishment. The druids prophesied: "O King, this fire will never be put out unless it is put out this very night! It will surpass all our fires, and he who has kindled it and the kingdom that he speaks of will overpower all. It will spread over all the country and will reign for ever and ever."

ing Loiguire was very disturbed. "We must put to death the man who has done this!" He took twenty-seven chariots and set out to hunt down the transgressor. When Patrick saw the chariots come near, he went to meet them, singing to God in his heart. King Loiguire was enraged and ordered his men to kill Patrick and those with him on the spot. The men rushed at Patrick, but he made the sign of the Cross and cried out, "Let God arise and His enemies be scattered, and those who hate Him flee from before His face!" That instant a thick darkness fell on the soldiers so that they began to fight each other. By God's mighty hand, Patrick and those with him were delivered. Like deer, they slipped away, while the bright Pascha fire burned on.

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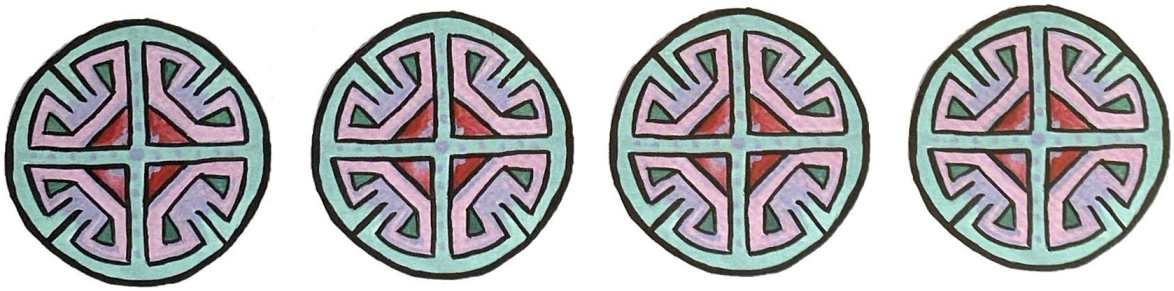
atrick faced many other dangers, but God always guided and strengthened him.

It happened once that Patrick was taken prisoner and his captors meant to kill him. He sat in chains for fourteen days, but was never harmed. Twelve other times his life was at stake. Many times the Holy Spirit warned Patrick before trouble actually came, for Patrick was a true friend and servant of the High King of Heaven.

Remembering all these dangers, Patrick said, "I was not afraid of these things, because of the promise of heaven, because I have thrown myself into God's hands, who reigns over all things."



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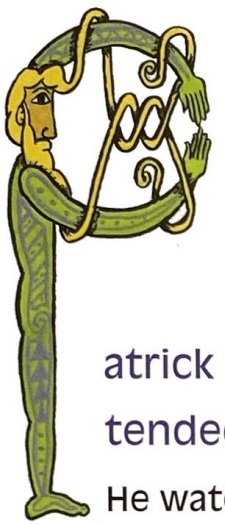
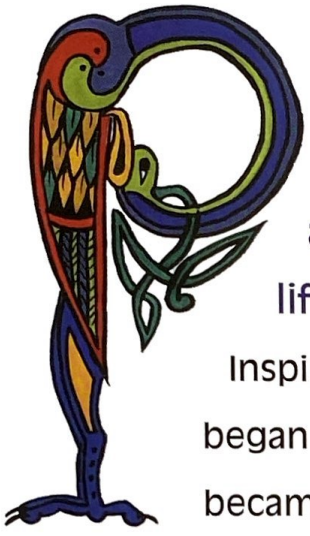


atrick often went away to isolated places. There he tended the fire of God in his heart as he prayed and fasted. He watered his love for Christ with many tears as he offered up the Irish people to God's protection. As a bishop, Patrick baptized many of the Irish people and ordained priests to care for those freshly brought alive in faith. Many of these new believers became monks and nuns, dedicating their lives to God in a special way. Through the grace of God and Patrick's hard labor, churches and monasteries grew like spring flowers through all of Ireland.

HOLY PATRICK
APOSTLE TO IRELAND
God is Glorious in His Saints



atrick labored long and hard in Ireland, giving his life for God and the people God had given to him. Inspired by Patrick's holy life, many other men and women began to burn with love for Christ, and in time many of them became renowned saints also.

In the year 461, Patrick knew that he would soon fall asleep in the Lord. On March 17 this great man of God passed on to the Kingdom of Heaven. That night angels sang psalms, chanted hymns, and with fragrant prayers kept vigil over his body. A beautiful smell was all around, like the sweetest honey.

"Without a shadow of doubt, on that last day, we shall rise again in the brilliant brightness of the sun, that is, in the glory of our Redeemer Christ Jesus, as children of the living God and joint heirs with Christ, still destined to be shaped in his own image; for of Him, and by Him, and in Him we shall reign."

—Saint Patrick

SAINT
PATRICK
APOSTLE TO
IRELAND

Troparion (Tone One)—

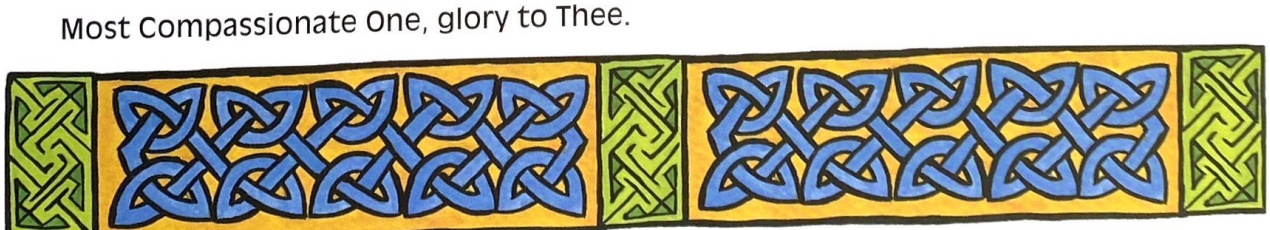
O Holy Hierarch Patrick,
Wonderworker equal to the Apostles,
Enlightener of the Irish land,
Entreat the merciful God
That He grant our souls remission of transgressions.

Kontakion (Tone Four)—

Thou wast shown to be a true fisher of men,
For, spreading out the nets of the glad tidings of the Gospel,
Thou didst draw the heathen into the kingdom of Christ,
Enlightening with baptism those who languished in the darkness of idolatry,
And making them children of the living God.
Wherefore, we beseech thee, O holy hierarch Patrick, our father:
Intercede on behalf of us who honor thy holy memory.

Another Troparion (Tone Four)—

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God
Who didst establish our Father Patrick
As the Enlightener of the Irish and a torch-bearer on earth,
And through him didst guide many to the true Faith.
Most Compassionate One, glory to Thee.



Saint Patrick's Breastplate

I bind unto myself today
The strong Name of the Trinity,
By invocation of the same,
The Three in One, and One in Three.
I bind this day to me forever,
By power of faith, Christ's Incarnation;
His baptism in the Jordan River;
His death on the cross for my salvation;
His bursting from the spiced tomb. . . .

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right,
Christ on my left, Christ in breadth, Christ in length,
Christ in height, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.

I arise today through a mighty strength,
The invocation of the Trinity,
Through belief in the Threeness,
Through confession of the Oneness of the Creator of creation.
Salvation is of the Lord. Salvation is of the Lord.
Salvation is of Christ. May Thy Salvation, O Lord, be ever with us.

—Select verses from a poem/prayer attributed to Saint Patrick

CHILDREN'S / RELIGIOUS
For children 4 and up

The Life of Saint Patrick: Enlightener of the Irish

Long ago, deep in the mists of time, one man burning with love for Christ changed the course of Irish history. The story of Saint Patrick of Ireland, as told and illustrated by Zachary Lynch, veers from the usual legends of shamrocks and leprechauns, and recounts the true story of Saint Patrick—from his kidnapping and enslavement as a young man, to his death as a revered bishop of the Irish people. Taken mainly from his book of *Confessions*, these tales draw out the deeply Christian aspects of Saint Patrick's life. The colorful Celtic illuminations with iconic elements will captivate readers of all ages.

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